

**MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS
WESTERN DISTRICT**

COMPLETE TITLE OF CASE:

STATE OF MISSOURI,

Respondent

v.

MILAS W. MORSE.

Appellant

DOCKET NUMBER WD78403

**MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS
WESTERN DISTRICT**

DATE: May 10, 2016

Appeal From:

Circuit Court of Jackson County, MO
The Honorable James Dale Youngs, Judge

Appellate Judges:

Division Three
Gary D. Witt, P.J., James Edward Welsh, and Anthony Rex Gabbert, JJ.

Attorneys:

John Simpson, Kansas City, MO

Counsel for Appellant

Attorneys:

Colette Neuner, Jefferson City, MO

Counsel for Respondent

**MISSOURI APPELLATE COURT OPINION SUMMARY
MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS, WESTERN DISTRICT**

**STATE OF MISSOURI, Respondent, v.
MILAS W. MORSE, Appellant**

WD78403

Jackson County

Before Division Three Judges: Witt, P.J., Welsh, and Gabbert, JJ.

Milas Morse appeals the circuit court's judgment following a bench trial convicting him of first-degree assault and armed criminal action. Morse claims that the evidence was not sufficient to prove his guilt of first-degree assault beyond a reasonable doubt.

Affirmed.

Division Three holds:

Viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the verdict, there was sufficient evidence for the court to find, beyond a reasonable doubt, that Morse knowingly assaulted George by stabbing him, causing serious injury, and, thus, there was sufficient evidence to find him guilty of first-degree assault. There was sufficient evidence from which the court could reasonably conclude (1) that Morse acted "knowingly," in that he was aware of the nature of his conduct and was aware that his actions were "practically certain" to cause serious physical injury, (2) that Morse was not acting in self-defense, and (3) that he was not acting under the influence of "sudden passion for adequate cause" or "recklessly."

Opinion by James Edward Welsh, Judge

May 10, 2016

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